Engineer has recommended sealing of cracks and to consider further rehabilitation measures, if any, after monitoring the behaviour of cracks.

(e) State PWD of Goa has already been directed to under take the repair and monitoring of the cracks. Construction of a new bridge on River Zuari is included in the widening of NH-17 to four lanes under NHDP Phase-IIIB.

Amendment of Indian Vessels Act

377. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend Indian Vessels Act; and

(b) if so, the essential provision of the proposed legislation?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the important provisions in the proposed amendment to Inland Vessels Act, 1917 are as follows:—

(i) Change in definition of inland vessel, inland water and mechanically propelled vessel;

(ii) Inclusion of definition of tidal water;

(iii) Provision for issue of temporary permit till issuance of Survey Certificate;

(iv) Increasing period from 12 months to 36 months for inland vessels to ply in another State without transfer to registration;

(v) Facilitating grant of certificate of service to personnel of Coast Guard, Indian Navy or regular Army;

(vi) Certificate of competency, service or licences to have effect throughout India;

(vii) Application of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 with respect to insurance to mechanically propelled vessels;

(viii) Provision for prevention and control of pollution and protection of inland water; and

(ix) To provide for suitable construction and manning norms for inland vessels based on operating conditions on inland water.

Taking over of IFP shipway

378. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the request of Government of Kerala for taking over IFP shipway to Cochin Port;

(b) if so, whether any discussion has taken with the State Government and the outcome of this discussion between the State and the Central Government; and

(c) whether Government would take urgent steps to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A reference has been received by Department of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries & Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture regarding taking over of Integrated Fisheries Project (IFP) slipway on lease basis by Port Department, Government of Kerala. The proposal has not been discussed with the Government of Kerala.

(c) The slipway in question consisting of a cradle for hauling up of vessels was previously under the control of Integrated Fisheries Project (IFP), Cochin. The slipway has since been transferred to Fishery Survey of India (FSI) for developmental activities. An expert Committee has also been constituted in the Department of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries & Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture to examine the requirements for re-commissioning of the facilities of the slipway as earlier the facilities of the slipway were not being utilized fully by IFP. The FSI is having a fleet of 12 vessels and with the re-commissioning of the slipway the facility would be utilized for berthing the departmental vessels.

In view of the above, it is not possible for the Department of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture, to spare the slipway for the use of Port Department, Kerala.